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VOLUNTEER SERVICE IN THE PHILIPPINES.

REMARKS

OF

HON. H. C. HANSBROUGH,

OF NORTH DAKOTA,

IN THE

SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

MAY 4, 1900



WASHINGTON.

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REMARKS
OF
HON. H. C. HANSBROUGH.

During the consideration of the military appropriation bill, Senator PETTIGREW having read numerous letters from the members of the South Dakota volunteer regiment complaining of the policy of the Administration in the conduct of the war—

Senator HANSBROUGH said:

Mr. PRESIDENT: In view of what has been said here to-day and on yesterday in regard to the service and experience of the South Dakota regiment, I think it is due that I should make some reference to the service and experience of the regiment that went from North Dakota.

I assume, Mr. President, that the two regiments were made up of about the same kind of material, the same class of people. The men who composed the North Dakota regiment came from the shops and the stores and the farms. I had the honor to be on a committee that went from my State to San Francisco to meet the North Dakota regiment when it returned from Manila, and I remained there for two weeks, assisting in any way that I could to arrange for their transportation home. I talked with a great many members of that regiment, and it was the unanimous testimony that the hardships which they encountered were not unexpected. I do not recall hearing a single complaint from any of them in regard to their treatment, nor did I hear of any regret from any of them over the fact that they had gone to the Philippines in the service of their Government.

The service of the North Dakota regiment was equally remarkable with the service of the South Dakota regiment. I remember hearing the colonel of our regiment relate an incident of that service which it seems to me is very creditable. When Captain Young, I think it was, from the State of Utah, applied to General Lawton for the privilege of organizing a company of scouts, he requested that he be permitted to select his men from the North Dakota regiment. General Lawton replied to him that that would not do, as it might cause some jealousy among the members of other



regiments. The scouts were organized, however, and 18 out of the 25 in the organization were North Dakotans. I do not refer to this by way of disparagement with respect to any other regiment in the Philippines. I understand and believe they all served with distinction and bravery.

The State of North Dakota paid the expenses of transportation for our troops from San Francisco home. The citizens put their hands into their pockets and raised some \$20,000 for that purpose; and, as I have said, Mr. President, I have never heard from the mouth of any member of the North Dakota regiment a single complaint or a single regret that they were in Philippine service.

The discussion of political questions was not allowed, was not tolerated, in the camp, as I am advised. At San Francisco, when our committee, consisting of the two Senators, the Member of the House of Representatives, and several State officers, arrived there, we observed that some of the troops showed no little feeling over the fact, indicating that they were not pleased with the presence there of men who were engaged in politics, or that we should have gone there to meet them, and thus subject them to the suspicion that political influences were at work. There was no politics in the regiment. So much for the patriotic spirit of those volunteers.

Mr. President, the North Dakota regiment was composed of Democrats and Populists as well as Republicans. On their return home I was at several receptions which were given to those troops; and I recall that one of the majors of the regiment made a speech at one of the receptions. He was a Democrat. In the speech that he made at this meeting he indorsed the action of the Administration with respect to the conduct of the war, and said that even if he had the work to do over again he would be found in the ranks on his way to the Philippines as before.

Mr. President, I think it is due that I should make this statement in behalf of the regiment from North Dakota by way of contrast with what has been said here in regard to the South Dakota volunteers, because I have yet to hear of a single complaint against the Government or against the treatment of our North Dakota volunteers while they were in the Philippines in the service of their country.

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